

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 113912

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CVIS, CGEN, GE, US

SUBJECT: ACCREDITATION FOR US JOURNALISTS TO THE GDR

REF: BERLIN 5763; STATE 099127; STATE 095177; BERLIN
5525; STATE 215922

1. DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION SUPPORTS EMBASSY'S VIEW
THAT MOST MAJOR US MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS ARE STILL
INTERESTED IN HAVING THEIR BONN AND WEST BERLIN
REPRESENTATIVES ACCREDITED TO THE GDR RATHER THAN
ACCEPTING ACCREDITATION FOR THEIR CORRESPONDENTS IN
THIRD COUNTRIES.

2. OUR POLICY REMAINS THAT ACCREDITATION CANNOT AND
SHOULD NOT BE TIED TO THE LOCATION OF JOURNALISTS.

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THEREFORE, WE SHALL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE US MEDIA

ON THIS ISSUE. CONCOMITANTLY, WE SHALL NOT AGREE TO THE ISSUANCE OF MULTIPLE-ENTRY VISAS FOR GDR CORRESPONDENTS UNTIL THE ACCREDITATION QUESTION HAS BEEN RESOLVED TO THE SATISFACTION OF THOSE US NEWS ORGANIZATIONS MOST CONCERNED, SUCH AS NEW YORK TIMES AND THE L.A. TIMES.

3. WE AGREE THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE US MEDIA IN REINFORCING THEIR INTEREST IN THIS MATTER WERE THEY TO REQUEST GDR ACCREDITATION FOR THEIR CORRESPONDENTS IN THE FRG AND WEST BERLIN. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT PLAN TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN PROPOSING THIS APPROACH. WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS UP TO THE CONCERNED ORGANIZATIONS TO DECIDE ON WHAT THEIR NEXT STEPS SHOULD BE. ADDITIONALLY, WE HAVE STRESSED TO THE EAST GERMANS THAT THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT INFLUENCE OUR NEWS ORGANIZATIONS ON THIS QUESTION. WE WOULD NOT WISH TO BE SEEN AS ORGANIZING A CONCERTED EFFORT TO BEAT THE EAST GERMANS DOWN ON THE ACCREDITATION ISSUE, AND WE WOULD ALSO NOT WISH TO END UP IN AN ISOLATED POSITION WERE THOSE US ORGANIZATIONS WHOM WE ARE BACKING TO GIVE IN TO THE EAST GERMANS. KISSINGER

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